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Senators Stabenow and Levin Announce Amendment that would Authorize \$10 Million for Local Law Enforcement Agencies

*Since September 11 Attacks, Local Police Officers have been Working Nearly Around the
Clock to Protect Northern Border*

WASHINGTON—U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin (D-MI) announced today that their amendment to authorize \$10 million to reimburse the local police officers who have been working nearly around the clock to protect the Northern Border was included in H.R. 4775, the Supplemental Appropriations Bill that passed the Senate late last night. This bill meets emergency funding needs that were made evident in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks. It is now headed to a joint Senate-House conference committee.

"Since September 11, officers from 33 local law enforcement agencies have been working tirelessly to protect the Northern Border and to assure that traffic there is able to move safely and efficiently," said Stabenow. "These local agencies have been performing a very important federal role without federal funds. It is our duty to reimburse these dedicated agencies so that they can continue to meet the needs of their communities."

"The police departments that unselfishly provided assistance at the Northern Border diverted valuable resources from their own operating budgets in order to fill security gaps, something they can hardly afford to do," said Levin. "The least we can do is allow them to be reimbursed for their patriotic efforts."

For nearly ten months, officers from local law enforcement agencies have been assisting the federal officers already deployed at the border with vehicle inspections and other duties required to secure the border. Without local assistance, these agencies would have found it difficult, if not impossible, to prevent massive traffic backups at the busiest border crossings between the United States and Canada.

Many local law enforcement agencies will not be able to continue their service at these crossing points without federal reimbursement. In fact, many local personnel have already been recalled due to lack of funding. Additional federal agents are not expected to begin service at the border until after October, 2002. If local agents leave before the federal agents are deployed, 3-4 hour traffic delays can be expected at the Northern Border.

More than \$1.9 billion worth of goods and services travel from Canada through Michigan each day. Three points of entry, the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel, the Ambassador Bridge and the Blue Water Bridge are among the seven busiest U.S.-Canadian crossing points. The Ambassador Bridge is the most heavily-traveled bridge on the Northern Border.